

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 1 and 9-11 are pending.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of Claim 1 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,499,663. As noted in the Remarks submitted with the Preliminary Amendment filed with the Request for this continuation application, the Applicants retained original claim 1 only to obtain a filing date. Thus, claim 1 has been amended to avoid the double patenting rejection.

Concerning amended claim 1 and new claims 9-11, the present invention is directed to a semiconductor integrated circuit device for use with a solid state image pickup device. The semiconductor integrated circuit device includes an offset cancelling circuit which applies an offset cancelling voltage for cancelling an offset voltage corresponding to an offset in regard to an output of the solid state image pickup device.

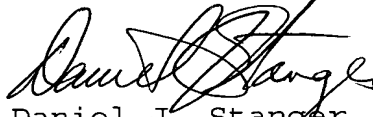
Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,499,663 claims an image input system, including an offset cancelling circuit which applies an offset cancelling voltage for cancelling an offset voltage. However, claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,499,663 does

not recite that the offset voltage corresponds to an offset in regard to an output of the solid state image pickup device.

In view of the foregoing amendments, new claims, and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Stanger", is written over the typed name.

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